

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

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R 081545Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9494

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR GR US

SUBJECT: VISIT OF ARCHBISHOP IAKOVOS AND ARCHDIOCESAN COUNCIL

REF: ATHENS 4963

1. SUMMARY. THE GREEK GOVERNMENT GAVE SPECIAL HIGH LEVEL ATTENTION TO VISIT TO ATHENS BY ARCHBISHOP IAKOVOS AND HIS ARCHDIOCESAN COUNCIL. THEIR ACTIVITIES WERE ALSO COVERED PROMINENTLY BY THE GREEK NEWS MEDIA. IAKOVOS MET WITH CARAMANLIS AND FOLLOWING HIS MEETING HE SAID, "WE ARE PROUD OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF GREECE." IN A SPEECH DURING A DINNER IN HIS HONOR PRESIDENT TSATSOS SPOKE WARMLY ABOUT GREEK-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP. IN GENERAL, THE VISIT HERE OF THE GREEK-AMERICAN GROUP CONTRIBUTED TO THE GRADUAL IMPROVEMENT IN THE CLIMATE OF GREEK-US RELATIONS WHICH WE HAVE NOTED RECENTLY. END SUMMARY.

2. THE SPECIAL HIGH LEVEL ATTENTION GIVEN BY THE GREEK GOVERNMENT TO THE ARRIVAL OF ARCHBISHOP IAKOVOS AND OF THE GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESAN COUNCIL, AND THE OPENING SESSION OF THE COUNCILS MEETING HERE (REFTEL) CONTINUED DURING THE ENTIRE PERIOD OF THEIR VISIT THUS FAR. THE ARCHBISHOP AND THE COUNCIL ALSO RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION FROM THE GREEK MEDIA, ALTHOUGH THERE WERE ALSO A FEW ADDITIONAL REPORTS IN THE PRESS CRITICAL OF IAKOVOS

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(REFTEL).

3. THE COUNCILS PROGRAM INCLUDED AN OFFICIAL GOG RECEPTION GIVEN BY MINISTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER RALLIS, A RECEPTION BY AMB AND MRS KUBISCH (ATTENDED ALSO BY HIGH GREEK GOVT AND CHURCH OFFICIALS), AN EXCHANGE OF LUNCHEONS WITH THE ARCHBISHOP OF ATHENS AND ALL GREECE SERAPHIM, AND A DINNER IN HONOR OF PRESIDENT TSATSOS (SEE BELOW). THE PROGRAM ALSO INCLUDED A DEDICATION SERVICE AT A SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND AND AT A SUMMER CAMP FOR GREEK-AMERICAN CHILDREN SUPPORTED BY THE ARCHDIOCESE.

4. ON JULY 4 ARCHBISHOP IAKOVOS CELEBRATED A SPECIAL DOXOLOGY IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 199TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE FOLLOWING WHICH A WREATH WAS LAYED AT THE MEMORIAL TO AMERICAN PHILHELLENES. (THE ORIGINAL PLAN WAS TO HOLD THE DOXOLOGY AT A SMALL CHURCH TO AVOID THE POSSIBILITY OF AN ANTI-US DEMONSTRATION. HOWEVER, THE GOG WANTED THE DOXOLOGY BE HELD AT THE NATIONAL CATHEDRAL.) FOLLOWING THE DOXOLOGY IAKOVOS BROKE WITH CHURCH TRADITION AND CALLED ON AMBASSADOR KUBISCH TO MAKE A FEW REMARKS IN THE CATHEDRAL, WHICH HE DID.

5. ON JULY 5, ACCOMPANIED BY LEADERS OF THE COUNCIL, IAKOVOS CALLED ON PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS. (IAKOVOS AND HIS ASSOCIATES ALSO CALLED ON CU/NF OPPOSITION LEADER MAVORS). AFTER THE MEETING IAKOVOS TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE DISCUSSION WITH THE PRIME MINISTER HAD COVERED ALL SUBJECTS OF INTEREST TO GREEKS TODAY -- NATIONAL, RELIGIOUS AND THOSE OF CONCERN TO GREEK-AMERICANS. HE THEN STATED, "WE ARE PROUD OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF GREECE WHOM WE CONSIDER TO BE AN EXCEPTIONAL PERSONALITY."

6. ON THE CYPRUS QUESTION, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION, IAKOVOS INDICATED THAT THE GREEKS OF AMERICA ARE ENGAGED IN A STRUGGLE, NOT AGAINST ANYBODY, BUT SO THAT JUSTICE CAN PREVAIL. "OUR EFFORTS", HE SAID, "ARE TO ENLIGHTEN THE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WHERE THE QUESTION OF THE RESUMPTION OF A CERTAIN AID (PROGRAM) IS TO BE CONSIDERED." HE  
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INDICATED THERE WAS STILL A LONG WAY TO GO ON THE ROAD TO A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT.

7. THE HIGH POINT, IN A WAY, OF THE VISIT, WAS THE DINNER GIVEN BY IAKOVOS AND THE ARCHDIOCESAN COUNCIL IN HONOR OF PRESIDENT TSATSOS. (THE DINNER WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO BE IN HONOR OF THE PRIME MINISTER. HOWEVER, HE SUGGESTED THAT IT MIGHT MORE

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APPROPRIATELY HONOR THE NEWLY ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC.) TSATSOS SPOKE WARMLY OF GREEK-US RELATIONS IN HIS PREPARED REMARKS. IN REFERRING TO THE TIES OF GREEK-AMERICANS WITH THEIR "OLD COUNTRY", THE PRESIDENT PRAISED THE "DEMOCRATIC SPIRIT" AND "SENSE OF FREEDOM" IN THE US WHICH MADE THIS POSSIBLE. HE HAILED THE "COMMON IDEALS OF DEMOCRACY AND HUMANISM" IN BOTH COUNTRIES.

8. PRESIDENT TSATSOS RECALLED THE AID GREEK-AMERICANS AND OTHER AMERICANS GAVE GREECE THIRTY FIVE YEARS AGO AND SAID GREECE HAD A COMPARABLE NEED FOR HELP NOW. HOWEVER, AT THIS TIME, HE SAID, WE SEEK ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COLLABORATION, AND BUSINESS INVESTMENTS, AND ALSO SCHOLARS AND SCIENTISTS. TSATSOS THEN REFERRED TO THE MESSAGE HEHAD RECENTLY SENT "YOUR PRESIDENT" (THANKING HIM FOR HIS CONGRATULATIONS ON TSATSOS ELECTION AS PRESIDENT) IN WHICH HE TALKED ABOUT OUR COMMON "PASSION FOR THE IDEALS OF FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY".

9. HE THEN TRACED THE LONG AND CLOSE ASSOCIATION OF GREECE AND THE US SINCE WE BOTH GAINED INDEPENDENCE -- FIGHTING TOGETHER IN 1914-1918 AND AGAIN IN 1941-1944 IN THE NAME OF FREEDOM AND JUSTICE, "WHEN OTHERS CHOSE TO STAY OUT OF THE CONFLICT". HE CONCLUDED THAT THE SOLI-

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DARITY BETWEEN US "CANNOT POSSIBLY BE THREATENED".  
"FRIENDSHIP IS A SACRED LAW. OCCASIONALLY WE HAVE  
RAINY DAYS...BEFORE LONG...THE SKY BRIGHTENS ONCE AGAIN  
AND THE SUN SHINES...THE SUN WHICH HAS SO FAR BEEN A  
STEADFAST GUIDE FOR BOTH OUR NATIONS."

10. AT ARCHBISHOP IAKOVOS REQUEST THE AMBASSADOR  
RESPONDED TO PRESIDENT TSATSOS MOVING SPEECH. LATER  
TSATSOS TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT HIS TEXT, WHICH HAD  
A DEFINITELY POSITIVE TONE, HAD BEEN APPROVED WITHIN  
THE GREEK GOVT AND REFLECTED ITS VIEWS. MOREOVER,  
HE WOULD HAVE MADE IT EVEN MORE POSITIVE HAD IT ONLY BEEN UP  
TO HIM.

11. COMMENT: THE VISIT OF THE ARCHDIOCESAN COUNCIL  
PROVIDED A NUMBER OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR HIGH OFFICIALS  
OF THE GREEK GOVT TO SPEAK IN POSITIVE AND FAVORABLE  
TERMS ABOUT THE US AND US-GREEK RELATIONS. THE  
AUDIENCE, ADMITTEDLY, WAS UNIQUELY TAILORED FOR THIS  
PURPOSE. WE BELIEVE IT IS SIGNIFICANT, NONETHELESS,  
THAT FROM THE OPENING SESSION (REMARKS BY MINISTERS RALLIS  
AND ZEPPUS, AND DEPUTY FORMIN STAVROPOULOS) TO  
THE MOST FAVORABLE SPEECH BY PRESIDENT TSATSOS TOWARDS THE  
END OF THE VISIT, THE GREEK GOVT CONSCIOUSLY STRESSED  
THE IMPORTANCE OF GOOD US-GREEK RELATIONS. THIS AND THE  
FAVORABLE PRESS TREATMENT OF AMB KUBISCH'S REMARKS AT  
THE COUNCILS OPENING SESSION (WHEN HE ALSO TALKED ABOUT  
THE NEED FOR FURTHER IMPROVEMENT IN US-GREEK RELATIONS)  
ARE A FURTHER INDICATION THAT WE ARE GRADUALLY MOVING  
TOWARD AN IMPROVED CLIMATE IN OUR RELATIONSHIP.  
KUBISCH

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